

St Helens College

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held at the Town Centre Campus, St Helens Thursday 25 August 2022 at 5.00pm

Present:	Bill Nixon (Chair)	External Governor
	Simon Pierce	Chief Executive/Principal
	David Balsamo	External Governor (via Teams)
	Zulakha Desai	External Governor (via Teams)
	Phil Han	External Governor (via Teams)
	John Heritage	External Governor (via Teams)
	Andrew Lang	External Governor (via Teams)
	Alun Owen	External Governor (via Teams)
	Jim Pinsent	External Governor
	Nick Shore	External Governor (via Teams)
In attendance:	Rav Garcha	Chief Financial Officer
	Mark Doyle	Deputy Principal - Curriculum and Quality
	Gillian Hayhurst	Governance Director (minutes)

The meeting opened at 4.01pm.

62 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Julie Heap, Debbie Calderbank and Liz Duncan.

63 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

64 St Helens Health and Care Innovation Hub

The report presented an overview of the work undertaken by the College with St Helens Council, St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust and other partners and stakeholders (the Steering Group) to develop a proposal for a 'Health and Care Innovation Hub'.

The board was informed of the three original proposals to establish a Hub at the College, which included adding an additional floor to the T6 building, refurbishing the area in B-block currently occupied by tenants or to construct a new building on the town centre side of St Helens campus. As the grant funding application for the T6 building had been unsuccessful, the Steering Group are further developing options two and three, with a new building being the preferred option. There may be potential to add other resources within a new building should capital funding be available. It was noted that a final budget and investment appraisal would be available once a decision was taken on which option will be developed.

The board considered the partnership opportunity as a good strategic fit that would help meet local need by improving training opportunities within health and social care. Net Present Value calculations for the project will be available once it is agreed which curriculum areas will operate from the site. There will be a range of training available, which will be both public and privately funded. The Steering Group is aware that the College expects to deliver the majority of the training as part of the partnership.

The Steering Group still need to consider the governance arrangements for the partnership and details will be agreed by all parties once the project has been signed off by the Local Authority.

The board discussed the risks of proceeding with the project based on the information available. It was noted that there is no contractual arrangement in place currently but there would be reputational damage should the College withdraw from the project at a later date and this could impact on future opportunities, particularly given the level of competition in the area. The board are keen to show that the College is a key partner in both St Helens and Knowsley and that opportunities and risks acknowledge the appetite for growth.

Consideration was given to funding and whether the project would be a capital investment or revenue spend as this would have a range of impacts on the College's financial position. The board would be unable to support a financial contribution to another organisation's asset, therefore the building would need to be owned by the College or a new proposal presented for consideration. Based on current projections, the grant funding will cover expenditure within the 2022/23 financial year so the match funding will need to be secured for 2023/24.

David Balsamo and Andrew Greenhill left the meeting

RESOLVED:

The Governing Board approved, in principle, the development of a £1.5 million skills hub at the Town Centre campus support funded in part through grant funding provided by St Helens Council.

The Governing Board approved in principal match funding to a maximum of £300,000, subject to the funds being a capital investment for the St Helens College.

65 Any other business

There were no items of any other business.

Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 4.00pm.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.